

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 22, as follows:

Particularly, image transfer to ~~on~~ a wooden support, such as a mirror frame or wardrobe door, is known to be advantageously carried out using laser with active material in the gaseous state, such as CO₂ lasers, or active material in the solid state, such as ionic crystals such as ruby or neodymium.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 3, as follows:

This means that the apparatus described in US 4,847,184, and the corresponding method of use, cannot ensure high precision in reproducing the image on the wooden support, nor ~~they can~~ can they allow high processing speeds and/or cutting depths on the latter.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 7, as follows:

Furthermore, patent US 4,847,184 does not provide the use of a transmission system for the beam, such as to focus and move the latter on the wooden support, which is capable of following the complex three-dimensional contours of the latter, but provides only a beam transmission system capable of guiding and focusing the laser beam on flat or at most cylindrical surfaces.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 17, as follows:

An object of the present invention is thus to provide an apparatus for transferring images to a wooden support by means of a laser that does not suffer from the above-mentioned drawbacks, and therefore allows reproducing the images on this wooden support, as desired, with high precision, while allowing to achieve high processing speeds and/or great image transfer depths within the support.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 23, as follows:

Another object of the present invention is to provide an apparatus for transferring images to a wooden support by means of a laser, and an operating method therefor, which allows transferring images to supports having complex three-dimensional shapes, i.e. not only on flat surfaces or three-dimensional axial-symmetrical surfaces, but also on asymmetrical pieces, such as rifle butts (or stocks) or pistol grips.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 4, as follows:

Yet another object of the present invention is to provide a method for transferring images reproducing wood grains to a wooden support by means of a laser, which allows obtaining finished products of extremely natural appearance.

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 9, which starts with “These and other objects are achieved . . . claims depending thereon.”.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 11, as follows:

- Fig. 2 is a ~~block~~-flow diagram of an operating method of the apparatus from Fig. 1.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 18, as follows:

The software 3 managing the image I can either comprise any image editing ~~programme~~-program being adapted, for example, to edit any image that is digitalized by means of the scanner 3, or can comprise a CAD system for the extemporaneous creation of an image I, or it may be as well any ~~programme~~-program suitable to generate, also in a random or pseudo-random manner, any image I as desired by the operator.